

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Final Rejection dated May 27, 2003 and the Advisory Office action dated January 16, 2004. Claims 30-39, 41-56, and 58-71 are currently pending in the present application. After entry of this amendment, claims 30-35, 37-39, 41-42, 45-49, 51-56, 58-59, and 61-71 will be pending in the application. Claims 36, 43, 44, 50, and 60 are cancelled by entry of this amendment. Claims 30, 39, 48, 56, 64 and 65 have been amended.

Allowable subject matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating allowable subject matter. The Examiner has indicated that claims 36, 44, 50, 60, 64, and 65 are objected to. The Examiner has stated that claims 46, 44, 60, and 64-65 are free of prior art. Claim 50 was objected to in the listing of claims found in the Office Action Summary of May 27, 2003, and in the Advisory Action of January 16, 2004. Claim 50 was not rejected in the Final rejection, or the Advisory Action. Therefore, for this reasons, Applicant believes claim 50 is also directed to allowable subject matter.

In response to the Examiner's position, Applicant has canceled claims 36, 43, 44, 50 and 60. The applicant has incorporated the subject matter of allowable claim 36 into independent claim 30 to render claim 30 allowable. The applicant has incorporated the subject matter of allowable claim 44 into claim 39 to render claim 39 allowable. The applicant has incorporated the subject matter of allowable claim 50 into claim 48 to render claim 48 allowable. The applicant has incorporated the subject matter of allowable claim 60 into claim 56 to render claim 56 allowable. Applicant has additionally incorporated the subject material of independent claims 39 and 56 into dependent claims 64 and 65 creating two additional allowable independent claims 64 and 65, based on the examiner's indication that dependent claims 64-65 were allowable.

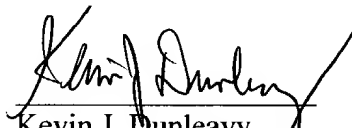
Applicant believes that all remaining pending claims 30-35, 37-39, 41, 42, 45-49, 51-56, 58, 59, 61-71 are now in condition for allowance.

Applicant would also like to note that claim 41 was incorrectly reproduced in the Request for Reconsideration filed 28 November 2003 and thus, in the present listing of claims, the correct claim 41, as amended on March 31, 1999, has been included.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request a favorable Office Action so indicating.

Respectfully submitted,


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